

# Greenwood, Specter →

By David Campbell

United States Senator Arlen Specter and United States Congressman Jim Greenwood pledged their support for President George W. Bush's re-election bid and defended the President's actions in Iraq during the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce's State of the Nation breakfast Friday. The Republican politicians also discussed the rebounding economy and their goals for the future before a sizable crowd gathered at Spring Mill

that 99 percent of the happenings in Iraq involve American personnel fixing up schools and hospitals, getting electricity started once again, and helping the Iraqi people, among other things. But, the Congressman continued, the media has chosen, for the most part, to focus on mounting United States casualties.

"We're doing a great job training the Iraqi people," Greenwood said. "We're trying to put an Iraqi between us and the problem. What we're

will positively impact its neighbors, opening the doors of communication.

Greenwood said children over in the Middle East are being taught to destroy [the United States and its allies] in the name of Allah. It is hoped that by opening Iraq the United States will then be able to give their side of their story.

"If they have the opportunity to hear the other side of the argument," Greenwood said, "these children will have the opportunity to hear the truth."

Thus, Greenwood told troops: "You're changing the course of history."

Another issue that has garnered national attention of late has been Democratic reports that the Bush Administration misled the American people on the presence of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in Iraq, as a justifiable reason for invading the seemingly arid country.

Greenwood read quotes penned by Democratic leaders Sen. Ted Kennedy, former President Bill Clinton, former Presidential candidate and Vice President Al Gore, and Sen. John Kerry, all indicating the strong possibility of WMDs on Iraqi soil.

Greenwood deflected blame heaped on the Bush Administration for the intelligence error, saying that the Clinton Administration as well as other countries had the same data indicating that Iraq had WMDs.

"[Our intelligence] was consistent across the board," Greenwood said.



*Congressman Jim Greenwood (right) poses for a photo with, from left, William C. Brady, PECO Energy, event sponsor; Neil Hopkins and Greg Kessel, Sierra Management Corp., event sponsor; and Beth Beans Gilbert, Fred Beans Family of Dealerships.*

Manor in Ivyland.

Greenwood spoke of his recent journey to the Middle East, including stops in Iraq, Israel and Jordan. As he has done in the past, the Congressman praised the efforts of troops serving in Iraq and blamed the media for only reporting the negatives of the operation, such as fatalities, to the American people.

Greenwood estimated

doing is extraordinarily difficult."

The Congressman said the United States' presence in Iraq - and in the Middle East - is vital to establishing stability within the dangerous region. The key, he said, is setting up a democracy in war-torn Iraq and helping the Iraqis write a Constitution. Greenwood said he hopes that Iraq's inevitable transformation

BP  
p5  
2-19-04

↓

# discuss State of the Nation

"This isn't a partisan issue. We have to find out if our intelligence is flawed."

The Congressman also briefly discussed the U.S. economy, saying that President Bush's tax cuts actually helped stimulate growth, not hurt the economy, as has been widely reported.

While the country's economy showed tremendous improvements during the fourth quarter of 2003, Greenwood was quick to defend the President's record for a sagging

economy prior to recent gains.

"Recessions happen," Greenwood said. "You can't blame any one administration. Washington doesn't cause recessions... Wars produce horrendous deficits."

Specter, Pennsylvania's first four-term senator, echoed many of Greenwood's remarks and discussed his myriad encounters with the President.

"It's always a thrill to travel on Air Force One," Specter joked. "If you ever have the opportunity

to do so, I recommend that you not turn it down."

Specter continued that the United States is making headway in Iraq and addressed the need to get the budget deficit under control.

"We have to live within our means," he said.

Specter, who is up for re-election himself this year, followed that he'll be working very hard for the President this year in his re-election campaign.

"The President has a light touch," he said.